

REMARKS

Claims 21-33 are pending in this application. Claims 21 and 27 have been amended. No new matter has been entered. Reconsideration is requested.

The Office first objected to the specification, and is requiring that the "Related Applications" section be updated to provide the most current status of the related applications. Applicant has amended the "Related Applications" section as required by the Office.

Claims 21-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,397,304 to Truckai in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,273,535 to Edwards et al.

In response to this rejection, independent claims 21 and 27 have been amended to recite the first steering tendon and the second steering tendon being attached to separate structures, a first structure and a second structure, respectively. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added to the claims. The specification and drawings describe the first steering tendon being attached to the distal tip, which is a structure, and the second steering being attached to the anchor band, which is also a structure that is separate from the distal tip. Claims 21 and 27 also include the limitation that the second steering tendon is attached proximal to the attachment point of the first end of the first steering tendon. Neither Truckai nor Edwards alone or in combination teaches or suggests a catheter having first and second steering tendons wherein each steering tendon is attached to a different structure, and one steering tendon is attached proximal to the other steering

tendon. Truckai discloses a catheter wherein the distal ends of a plurality of steering tendons are attached to an anchor plate at a position distal to the lumen of the sheath. Edwards discloses a catheter wherein the steering tendons are both attached to a single structure, that being a flat support wire, and not to separate structures as now claimed. For all of these reasons, independent claims 21 and 27 and their dependent claims are allowable over Truckai in view of Edwards.

Applicant traverses the obviousness rejection with respect to dependent claims 22, 28 and 29. Neither Truckai nor Edwards discloses a catheter wherein the first steering tendon is secured within the distal tip. As shown in FIG. 5 of Truckai, the distal ends of the steering tendons are attached to an anchor plate positioned between the sheath and the distal tip, but not within the distal tip. Further, Edwards shows the tendons attached to a flat wire, not located within the distal tip. For these additional reasons, claims 22, 28 and 29 are allowable over Truckai in view of Edwards.

Also, dependent claims 23 and 30 are allowable over Truckai in view of Edwards because neither Truckai nor Edwards discloses a catheter having steering tendons wherein the attachment points are angularly aligned with each other. Truckai discloses that the tendons are angularly displaced 90 degrees from each other, and Edwards shows the tendons displaced 180 degrees from each other.

Claims 21-33 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,715, 817 to Stevens-Wright et al. in view of Edwards et al.

As discussed above, independent claims 21 and 27 have been amended to recite the first steering tendon and the second steering tendon being attached to separate

structures, a first structure and a second structure, respectively. Claims 21 and 27 also include the limitation that the second steering tendon is attached proximal to the attachment point of the first end of the first steering tendon. Neither Stevens-Wright nor Edwards alone or in combination teaches or suggests a catheter having first and second steering tendons wherein each steering tendon is attached to a different structure, and one steering tendon is attached proximal to the other steering tendon. Stevens-Wright discloses a catheter wherein the distal ends of the steering tendons are attached within the distal tip, hence to a single structure, and not to separate structures as required by the claims. As previously discussed, Edwards discloses a catheter wherein the steering tendons are both attached to a single structure, that being a flat support wire, and not to separate structures as now claimed. For all of these reasons, independent claims 21 and 27 and their dependent claims are allowable over Stevens-Wright in view of Edwards.

Applicant traverses this rejection with respect to dependent claims 23 and 30. Claims 23 and 30 are allowable over Stevens-Wright in view of Edwards because neither Stevens-Wright nor Edwards discloses a catheter having steering tendons wherein the attachment points are angularly aligned with each other. Stevens-Wright and Edwards both disclose that the tendons are angularly displaced 180 degrees from each other.

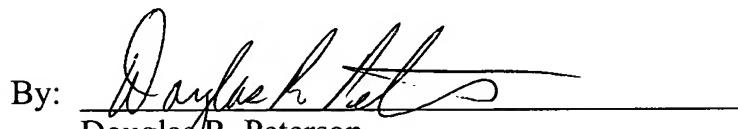
The Office further rejected claims 21-33 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-31 of U.S. Patent No. 6,605,086. The Office also rejected claims 21-33 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-119 of U.S. Patent No. 6,610,058.

Applicant submits that all rejections and objections have been overcome, except for the obviousness-double patenting rejections, and applicant requests that this rejection be held in abeyance until the patentability of the claims is otherwise established.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge deposit account no. 06-2425 for any unforeseen fees arising from the filing of this paper.

Respectfully submitted,

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